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September 2010



**On St. Hildegard: Cloistered Nun and Mystic -
The Receiver of Supernatural Gifts Never
Boasts - Address during the general audience
in *Castel Gandolfo*, September 1, 2010**

... In 1988, on the occasion of the Marian Year, the Venerable John Paul II wrote an Apostolic Letter titled "Mulieris dignitatem," dealing with the valuable role that women have had and have in the life of the Church. The Church," one reads there, "gives thanks for all the manifestations of the feminine 'genius' which have appeared in the course of history, in the midst of all peoples and nations; she gives thanks for all the charisms which the Holy Spirit distributes to women in the history of the People of God, for all the victories which she owes to their faith, hope and charity: she gives thanks for all the fruits of feminine holiness" (No. 31).

[In Spanish, he said:]

... May the Virgin Mary accompany you on your journey and always remind you that there is no greater happiness than that of being Christ's friend. May the apostolic blessing that I impart with affection also serve you. Many thanks!

**"Be a Sign and Promise of ... Unity and Communion"
- Message sent to Cardinal Stanislaw Rylko,
president of the Pontifical Council for the
Laity, on the occasion of an Asian Catholic
laity conference, dated August 10 and
released on September 1, 2010**

... Commending those present to the loving intercession of Mary, Mother of the Church, I cordially impart my Apostolic Blessing as a pledge of joy and peace in the Lord.

**"We Too Want to Be Able to See Jesus"-
Message for World Youth Day dated August 6
and released on September 3, 2010**

... May the Virgin Mary accompany you along this path of preparation. At the message of the angel, she received God's word with faith. It was in faith that she consented to what God was accomplishing in her. By proclaiming her "fiat," her "yes," she received the gift of immense charity which led her to give herself entirely to God. May she intercede for each one of you so that, in the coming World Youth Day you may grow in faith and love. I assure you of a paternal remembrance in my prayers and I give you my heartfelt blessing.

**"Division ... Is In Opposition to the Will of the Lord"
- Address to Brazil's Bishops in Castel
Gandolfo on September 3, 2010**

...Invoking the intercession of Our Lady Aparecida, I grant each one of you, and the priests, men and women religious, seminarians, catechists and all the people entrusted to you, an affectionate Apostolic Blessing.

**A Continuing Reflection on St. Hildegard:
"Theology As Well Can Receive a Particular
Contribution From Women" - General Audience,
September 8, 2010**

...Today we celebrate the liturgical memorial of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Second Vatican Council says that Mary precedes us in the way of faith because she "believed that what was spoken to her by the Lord would be fulfilled." (Luke 1:45)

For you, young people, I ask the Holy Virgin the gift of an ever more mature faith; for you the sick, an ever stronger faith; and for you, dear newlyweds, an ever deeper faith.

**"In Every Task You Are Sustained by the Holy Spirit"
- Address to Evangelization Seminar, Castel
Gandolfo September 11, 2010**

... Dear brothers in the episcopate! It is in the power of the Holy Spirit that you have the wisdom and the peace to make your Churches witnesses of salvation and peace. He will guide you along the path of your episcopal ministry, which I entrust to the maternal intercession of Mary Most Holy, Queen of the Apostles.

**"Although Being Sinners, We Are Loved by
God:" On the Parables of Mercy - Angelus
Address, Castel Gandolfo, September 12, 2010**

... To the Virgin Mary, whose most holy name is celebrated today by the Church, I entrust our path of conversion to God.

**Friar's Life a "Chant of Humility" - Message for
Leopoldo de Alpandere Beatification,
September 13, 2010**

... "the life of this simple and austere Capuchin religious is a chant to humility and trust in God, and a luminous model of devotion to the Most Holy Virgin

Mary.

On Clare of Assisi: "The Whole Church Is Indebted to Courageous Women" - General Audience, September 15, 2010

... Dear young people, like Mary, do not be afraid to stay next to the cross. The Lord will instill in you the courage to overcome every obstacle in your daily life. And may you, dear sick people, be able to find in Mary consolation and support to learn the salvific value of suffering from the crucified Christ. You, dear newlyweds, turn with confidence in moments of difficulty to the Virgin of Sorrows, who, with her maternal intercession, will help you to face them.

"The Welsh People Have Been Distinguished for Their Devotion to the Mother of God" - Address to Faithful of Wales gathered outside the Cathedral of the Most Precious Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ, also known as Westminster Cathedral, London on September 18, 2010

... Thank you for your very warm greeting on behalf of the faithful of Wales. I am happy to have this opportunity to honor the nation and its ancient Christian traditions by blessing a mosaic of Saint David, the patron saint of the Welsh people, and by lighting the candle of the statue of Our Lady of Cardigan.

... Through the ages the Welsh people have been distinguished for their devotion to the Mother of God; this is evidenced by the innumerable places in Wales called "Llanfair" - Mary's Church. As I prepare to light the candle held by Our Lady, I pray that she will continue to intercede with her Son for all the men and women of Wales. May the light of Christ continue to guide their steps and shape the life and culture of the nation.

Sadly, it was not possible for me to come to Wales during this visit. But I trust that this beautiful statue, which now returns to the National Shrine of Our

Lady in Cardigan, will be a lasting reminder of the Pope's deep love for the Welsh people, and of his constant closeness, both in prayer and in the communion of the Church....

On Blessed John Henry Newman's Love of Mary: "He Lived His Priestly Ministry in a Spirit of Filial Devotion" ... *Angelus* Address in Cofton Park of Rednal, Birmingham, for the beatification ceremony of Cardinal John Henry Newman, September 19, 2010

... When Blessed John Henry Newman came to live in Birmingham, he gave the name "Maryvale" to his first home here. The Oratory that he founded is dedicated to the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin. And the Catholic University of Ireland he placed under the patronage of Mary, Sedes Sapientiae. In so many ways, he lived his priestly ministry in a spirit of filial devotion to the Mother of God. Meditating upon her role in the unfolding of God's plan for our salvation, he was moved to exclaim: "Who can estimate the holiness and perfection of her, who was chosen to be the Mother of Christ? What must have been her gifts, who was chosen to be the only near earthly relative of the Son of God, the only one whom He was bound by nature to revere and look up to; the one appointed to train and educate Him, to instruct Him day by day, as He grew in wisdom and in stature?" (*Parochial and Plain Sermons*, ii, 131-2). It is on account of those abundant gifts of grace that we honor her, and it is on account of that intimacy with her divine Son that we naturally seek her intercession for our own needs and the needs of the whole world. In the words of the *Angelus*, we turn now to our Blessed Mother and commend to her the intentions that we hold in our hearts.

On Love with a Capital "L": "Our Eternal Destiny Is Conditioned by Our Attitude" - *Angelus* Address, Castel Gandolfo, September 26, 2010

... Dear friends, only Love with a capital "L" makes for true happiness! This is also demonstrated by another witness, a young woman, who was proclaimed blessed here in Rome. I am speaking of Chiara Badano, an Italian girl born in 1971, who was led to death by an illness when she was a little less than 19 years old, but who was a ray of light for everyone, as her nickname, "Chiara Luce" (clear light), tells us. Her parish, the Diocese of Acqui Terme and the Focolare Movement, which she belonged to, are celebrating today -- and it is a festive day for all young people who can find in her an example of consistent Christianity.

Her last words, of complete adherence to the will of God, were: "Bye-bye Mamma. Be happy because I am." Let us praise God because his love is stronger than evil and death; and let us thank the Virgin Mary, who guides young people, through difficulties and sufferings too, to fall in love with Jesus and discover the beauty of life.

**"The Eucharist Is Indeed the Pilgrim's Nourishment"
- Message for Pilgrimages and Shrines
Conference, Vatican City dated September 8
and made public on September 27, 2010**

... With these sentiments, I entrust the fruits of this Congress to the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Apostle James as I direct my prayer to Jesus Christ, "the Way and the Truth and the Life" (Jn 14:6), to whom I present all those who seek His face as they peregrinate through life. ...

**On St. Matilda, God's Nightingale: "The
Liturgy Is a Great School of Spirituality" -
General Audience in St. Peter's Square on
September 29, 2010**

... At the center [of her prayer] were the mysteries of Christ to which the Virgin Mary referred constantly in order to walk on the path of sanctity: "If you desire true sanctity, stay close to my Son; he is sanctity itself who sanctifies everything" (Matilda von

Hackeborn, *Liber specialis gratiae*, I, 40). In her intimacy with God the whole world was present, the Church, benefactors, sinners. For her, heaven and earth were united.

... Her disciple Gertrude describes with intense expressions the last moments of the life of St. Matilda of Hackeborn, very harsh, but illumined by the presence of the most Blessed Trinity, of the Lord, of the Virgin, of all the saints, and also of her blood sister Gertrude ...

St. Matilda of Hackeborn entrusts us to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and to the Virgin Mary. She invites us to praise the Son with the heart of the Mother and to praise Mary with the heart of the Son. "I greet you, O most venerated Virgin, in that most gentle dew, which from the heart of the Most Blessed Trinity was diffused in you; I greet you in the glory and the joy with which you now rejoice eternally, you who, preferred to all the creatures of earth and heaven, were chosen even before the creation of the world! Amen." (Ibid., I, 45)

On taking leave of *Castel Gandolfo* - September 29, 2010

I assure you of my constant recollection in my prayers, that each of you may increasingly and more profoundly come to know and assimilate the Word of God, stimulus and source of Christian life in all situations and for all people, The Most Holy Virgin is a model of such obedient attention; learn from her.